

Avondale Middle School

7th Grade

Curriculum Guide

2024-2025



Katie Gomez, Principal

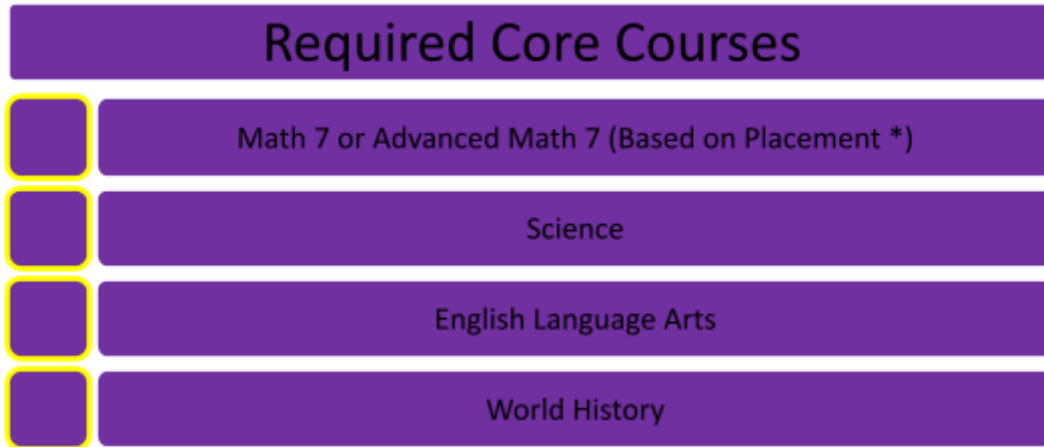
Arryn Schneider, Assistant Principal

Dave McMillan, 7th Grade Counselor

Seventh Grade

An Avondale Middle School 7th grade schedule consists of 6 academic class periods in a year. The school year consists of four quarters. All students are also assigned to a daily 32 minute advisory period.

Seventh grade students are required to take 4 periods of required core courses. Students also have 2 periods of exploratory courses. These exploratory courses consist of quarter long grading periods. Required exploratory courses include one quarter of a STEM course, one quarter of Health and one quarter of Fitness. Based on whether the student selects a Full-Year elective option determines exploratory offerings.



7th Grade Exploratory Course Offerings	
Full-Year Elective Students	Non-Music Students
<p>Choose one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concert Band 7 (Experience Required) Choir 7 (Audition Required) <p>All students are required to take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health – one quarter Physical Education 7 - one quarter STEM 7 – one quarter (Choice App and Animations Creators OR Flight in Space) <p>Choose 1 of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art 7 Careers French 7 Spanish 7 	<p>All students are required to take:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health – one quarter Physical Education 7 - one quarter STEM 7 – one quarter (Choice App and Animations Creators OR Flight in Space) <p>Remaining exploratory offerings include (pick 5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art 7 Careers French 7 Spanish 7
<p>Remediation in reading and math may be recommended for students who would benefit from these classes based on standardized test scores and screeners in reading and math.</p>	

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Advisory - Year-Long

Students at AMS begin their day with a 32 minute advisory period referred to as “Mustang Roundup”. Student advisory groups are made up of grade level students that are led by teacher mentors. The goal of Mustang Roundup is to provide a personalized connection to our learning environment where all students will be well known by at least one adult advocate. This relationship and connection to school is fostered through intentionally scheduled lessons, group activities, and one-to-one interactions with the advisor. The structure of this program will provide opportunities for character education, bullying prevention lessons, positive behavior support, independent reading, academic monitoring, organizational meetings, school wide initiatives, and fun cooperative activities.

CORE COURSES

Advanced English 7 - Year-Long

Students are placed in this course through a set of placement criteria. This course teaches students to be analytical consumers of informational and literary texts and provides a critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Students are encouraged to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, use of textual evidence, drafting, and revision. In reading, students are introduced to texts of increasing levels of difficulty. Using narrative texts, students practice and improve their skills in recognizing basic literary elements and terms, as well as compare literary themes, and identify the author's purpose and perspective. They monitor their reading by pausing, self-correcting, questioning, and reflecting. Students explore a wide range of literary genres including the short story, memoir, mystery, poetry, historical fiction, autobiography/biography, and informational text. A year-long Independent reading program focuses on reading stamina, close reading strategies, and oral communication skills. Students are expected to independently read a minimum of three books per quarter. Analytic and expository writing assignments provide the main vehicle for the development of composition skills, although expressive writing is also explored. Writing instruction targets the awareness of audience and purpose and the development of tighter focus, thoughtfully developed organization, more specific language, and more sophisticated sentence structure. Writing experiences include personal narrative, compare and contrast, literary text analysis of short stories, and research. Students write a 4-5 minute speech for the Optimist Speech Competition; oral communication skills are advanced through the delivery of this speech. Vocabulary study includes direct instruction as well as application of proper usage of words in all their variant forms and the utilization of context clues to convey and interpret meaning. Grammar instruction is also directly taught and students are consistently held accountable for use of proper writing conventions throughout the year.

Advanced Math 7 - Year-Long

Students are placed in this course through a set of placement criteria. Advanced Math 7 is a rigorous pre-algebra course designed for students who learn at an accelerated pace; both 7th and 8th-grade math concepts are taught. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics. The critical areas for Advanced Math 7 include: solving multi-step equations, exploration of transformations in the coordinate plane, triangles, and other polygons, angle relationships given two parallel lines, graphing linear equations, solving systems of linear equations, functions, Pythagorean's theorem, the real number system, surface area and volume of solids, exponents, inequalities, and various concepts concerning probability and statistics. Students will be placed into Advanced Math 7 upon successful completion of Advanced Math 6. Students will be placed into Algebra after successful completion of Advanced Math 7 (earning a minimum of 80% average for the school year).

English 7 - Year-Long

Over the course of 7th grade, students will study literature of various genres and informational text. This course follows a standards-based curriculum focused to deepen reading comprehension, analysis, and vocabulary development. Writing to communicate ideas and information using conventional writing skills is woven

throughout instruction in narrative, argument, and informational areas. Students will express information and enhance understanding of presentation through the strategic use of digital media and visual representations.

Math 7 - Year-Long

Math 7 is a grade-level course designed to prepare students for 8th-grade math. This course offers problem-solving lessons and activities with real-world connections. Upon completion of this class, students will gain an understanding of fundamental concepts and specifically explore integers, rational numbers, expressions and equations, inequalities, ratios and proportions, percent, circles, surface area, and volume, along with probability and statistics.

Science 7 - Year-Long

Seventh-grade students will focus on integrating three core disciplines: scientific processes, physical science, and life science. Students will continue to utilize scientific methods and the Metric System. This course includes units on alternative energy, thermal energy, properties of matter, cells & heredity, living things, and photosynthesis. Students will show their scientific understanding through investigation and dynamic scientific modeling. Emphasis will be placed on addressing real-world phenomena, collaborative teams with students sharing their ideas and defending their scientific arguments with evidence. Avondale Middle School uses the Mi-STAR Science Curriculum to meet the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

Social Studies 7 - Year-Long

The seventh-grade social studies curriculum focuses on ancient world history and geography with a deliberate focus on content literacy. Students investigate human history from the beginning until around 1500. They explore major and significant changes in each era through a chronological organization. Students learn about the earliest humans and explore early migration and settlement patterns. Students examine how the emergence of pastoral and agrarian societies set the stage for the development of powerful empires, trade networks, and the diffusion of people, resources, and ideas. Students will end the course with a comprehensive study of the beginnings of government and the functions of economic systems.

7th GRADE EXPLORATORY PROGRAM

Every seventh-grade student will have 2 exploratory hours/classes in their schedule. Students may choose a full year exploratory course OR if they are not interested, they will be scheduled into the quarter-long exploratory courses listed below.

7th GRADE QUARTER EXPLORATORY COURSES

Art 7 - Semester-Long

This is a Middle School Level Visual Arts Curriculum class including experiences in a variety of 2D and 3D media. Prerequisite: Sixth-grade Art is not required. Students will participate in concentrated efforts to apply design elements and principles in organization, creation, reflection, and self-evaluation of all projects. Extensive explanation, instruction, demonstration, and skill practice prior to major project work. Students will explore visual examples of various designs through world and art history, contemporary work, multi-disciplinary connections, and problem-solving. Minimal homework required.

Careers 7 - Semester -Long

This course is designed to develop an understanding of career pathways and employment opportunities for students to explore the world of work. Students will develop a clearer understanding of their personal interests, values, and emerging aptitudes. The class engages students in a variety of classroom exercises and will conclude with a project in which they research a career of their choice and present it to the class.

Health Education (Linked with PE7) (Required) - Semester-Long

This is a quarter-long mandatory class for seventh-grade students. This class is designed to teach students about the important social, emotional, and physical issues that they face today. This curriculum follows the Michigan Model for Health. Topics covered in this course are decision-making and problem-solving skills, recognizing and managing stress, recognizing bullying and prevention skills, understanding emotions, healthy

relationships, healthy eating, positive body image, and physical activity, understanding the importance of being drug and tobacco-free, and the consequences of drugs on their health, reproductive anatomy, abstinence-based sex education, HIV, sexual orientation and gender identity. This class is linked with PE 7.

Physical Education 7 (Linked with Health 7) - Semester-Long

Students participating in seventh-grade physical education will be challenged to become physically literate while developing lifelong healthy habits. Students will develop skills to be used to play a variety of team sports along with a basic understanding of team sport rules. Indoor and outdoor activities include; basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey, and other various group games. Students will also participate in fitness testing. Sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership are emphasized. This class is linked with Health 7.

French 7 - Semester-Long

Students are introduced to the French culture and language in this quarter-long course. The emphasis is on listening, reading, writing, and speaking in the target language. The curriculum will change each year so that students can take it in 6th and 7th grade and learn new material. We play games, do activities and end the course with a “fête” (party). Students who take French 6 can take French 7.

Spanish 7 - Semester-Long

Students are introduced to the Spanish culture and language in this quarter-long course. The emphasis is on listening, reading, writing and speaking about topics such as colors, food, numbers, greetings, weather, seasons, days and months, sports, and likes and dislikes. Hispanic culture, such as greetings, customs, traditions, foods and holidays are also discussed. We play games, do activities and end the course with a “fiesta” where students sample Spanish food. Students who take Spanish 6 can take Spanish 7.

STEM 7 - App and Animation Creators (One STEM 7 class is required) - Semester-Long

Students explore computer programming, app development, using Code.org ,and MIT App Inventor, and other online development tools. They learn graphic design, event-driven programming, debugging, and algorithm creation using variables and conditional logic. They create apps and fun interactive games that apply these concepts and use basic user interface features, media, and animation.

STEM 7 - Flight and Space (One STEM 7 class is required) - Semester-Long

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, prototype, and test model rocket fuel and a glider. Students will also get to experience virtual space travel simulations and projects.

7th GRADE FULL YEAR EXPLORATORY COURSES *

*Year-long classes may not be dropped – this is a Year-Long commitment.

*Students can choose Band or Choir OR take 8 quarter-long electives.

*If a student takes Band or Choir AND Spanish for Spanish Speakers, their elective hours are complete.

Band - Year-Long

We offer beginning, intermediate, and advanced band classes.

Beginning: In this class, students will learn music, basics pertaining to rhythm, tone, intonation, theory and terminology as well as instrument care and maintenance. This class will start from the most basic components of music, and no previous experience is required. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to play a wind instrument or percussion instrument. Students will start on one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone or percussion. Students who participate in band will need to rent or purchase a quality instrument. Enrollment in Band constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. This is a full-year class

Intermediate: Intermediate Band is a performing ensemble that will focus on intermediate-level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the Avondale High School Concert and Marching Bands. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of Beginning Grade Band. Additional placements are determined by audition. This class will include at least four performances, including MSBOA District XVI Solo & Ensemble Festival. Participation at all performances is required.

Advanced: Advanced Band (Wind Ensemble) is a performing ensemble that will focus on advanced-level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the Avondale High School Concert and Marching Bands. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of Intermediate Band. Additional placements are determined by audition (If new to the district or band program). This class will include at least four performances, including MSBOA District XVI Solo & Ensemble Festival. **Participation at all performances is mandatory.**

OR

Choir 7 - Year-Long

Placement in Choir is by audition only. Participation in all performances is mandatory. This class is designed for 7th-grade students who are interested in studying vocal music. Students will learn specific skills in the art of singing such as proper posture, breath support, and vowel placement. They will also study music theory and sing to develop skills in vocal techniques. The winter concert, spring concert, district, state, pre-festival, and festival performances are mandatory. Auditions are required. Class size is limited.

Spanish for Spanish-Speakers (Español para Hispanohablantes) - Year-Long

This class is specifically designed for students who already speak Spanish at home and have basic conversational skills in Spanish. In this class, students will improve their reading and writing skills in Spanish while learning more about the cultures of the Spanish-speaking communities in the United States and around the world. In each unit, students will be supported in reading a variety of Spanish language texts including picture books, stories, poems, short novels, and informational texts that relate to the unit theme. Students will be supported in producing their own Spanish-language writing in each unit. This year-long course will be open to 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade Spanish-speaking students every year. The curriculum will operate on a rotating three-year basis, with different content covered each year, such that students could take it for all three years of their middle school experience if interested.

You may contact the Avondale Middle School Counseling Department if you have any questions:

- Jill Amico, 7th Grade Counselor-248-537-6313 or jill.amico@avondaleschools.org